

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONROV 04220 092355Z
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9664

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 4220

FOR AF/W

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: BDIS, LI
SUBJECT: AMERICAN MARINE SUPPLY, INC.

REF: STATE 140481

1. IN A BRIEF MEETING WITH LAWRENCE MORGAN ON MAY 9, E/C COUNSELOR EXPRESSED OUR INTEREST IN THE CASE OF THE TUGBOATS. MORGAN THEN ASKED E/C COUNSELOR FOR A LETTER REQUESTING INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF THE CASE. MORGAN PROMISED TO REPLY SOON, BUT FAILED TO DO SO. UPON RECEIPT OF REFTEL, E/C COUNSELOR CALLED ON MORGAN AGAIN ON JUNE 8. LATTER MENTIONED THAT HE HAD ASKED NELSON BRODERICK OF TUBMAN LAW FIRM TO HANDLE CASE. WHEN ASKED ABOUT HIS FAILURE TO ANSWER HYDE'S LETTERS, MORGAN REPLIED THAT HE HAD GIVEN ONE LETTER TO ED BOUEY TO ANSWER AND THE OTHERS TO HIS LAW FIRM. HE SAID HE DIDN-T KNOW STATUS OF CASE SINCE BRODERICK IS HANDLING MATTER. ON THE MATTER OF THE GUARANTEED BOND, MORGAN REPLIED THAT IT IS ONLY "AN UNDERTAKING BY NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT." MORGAN STATED IN PASSING THAT TWO MEMBERS OF HIS LAW FIRM, NATHAN ROSS AND BEAUFORD MENSAH, AND BEEN TEMPORARILY DISBARRED FOR REPRESENTING BOTH PLAINTIFF AND DEFENDANT AT THE SAME TIME ON AN EARLIER PHASE OF THE CASE.

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2. ON JUNE 7 E/C COUSELOR LEARNED DURING A CALL ON NELSON BRODERICK THT THE CASE IS STILL ON THE BUCHANAN COURT DOCKET. BRODERICK EMPHASIZED THATPRESIDENT TOLBERT CAN SETTLE THE MATTER IF HE WOULD ONLY CUT THROUGH THE GORDIAN KNOT BY ASING THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT TO PAY ALL EXPENSES FOR THE TUGS. BRODERICK CLAIMED THAT FOR THE EXPENSES AS WELL AS FOR AMS' OWNERSHIP OF THE TUGS HAS BEEN SUBMITTED BY AMS. OTHER CLAIMANTS HAD ALSO

SUBMITTED DOCUMENTATION FOR THEIR EXPENSES. PRESIDENT TOLBERT HAD RELEASED THE TUGS AFTER HE REPORTEDLY RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT THAT IT WOULD HONOR ALL EXPENSES IN THIS CASE U P TO A SUM OF ABOUT \$500,000. BRODERICK SAID HE WOULD BE GETTING TOGETHER WITH MORGAN TO MAP OUT A STRAGETY TO RESOLVE THE MATTER. EMBASSY WILL BE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THEM AND REPORTING NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

3. COMMENT: BOTH MORGAN AND BRODERICK ARE EXTREMELY BUSY WITH HEAVY CASE LOAD AND APPEAR TO BE DOING LITTLE ABOUT MATTER. ACCORDING TO BRODERICK, ONLY ED BOUEY IS EXERTING EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF AMS, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE BEEN FUTILE THUS FAR. IT IS HOPED THAT EXPRESSION OF CONCERN BY EMBASSY WILL NOW GET THIS CASE OFF DEAD CENTER.
HORAN

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